

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 16, 2001

LB 305, 536, 543

members of the Legislature have engaged in that debate on public schools versus private schools scholarship programs. But I would suggest to them that the place to start that debate is next session, and the first bill ought to be to repeal the college savings plan; Senator Schrock's college savings plan, because that plan is granting state money in the form of deductions from your taxes for students who, one, don't have financial need and, two, they go to private schools but they don't even have to go to private schools in Nebraska, as PEAP requires. In fact, they could go to Yale. Can you imagine that? We're funding students at Yale University, and Stanford, and all over this country. Why doesn't our debate start there with aid that we're giving to private schools that aren't even in Nebraska and to students who don't even need financial aid? That's where the debate should start. Then the next bill on the debate ought to be a statutory repeal of PEAP. That's...that ought to be the next one. And then we could have a straightforward, up and down debate on private versus public, financial need versus no financial need, and get all our categories out there and get it clear what we want to do. But to come in at the end of the session and try to take away the PEAP fund without starting at this in some sort of logical fashion doesn't seem to me to be appropriate. And so I would hope that you would not do that at this point on a philosophic debate that is not properly focused by a debate on an appropriations bill override at this point. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President and members of the body, Senator Chambers, why I am so lucky to get you over 40 hours on an appropriations bill, 8 hours on a dairy compact bill, 8 hours...16 hours on LB 536? And I will confess I am looking forward to LB 305 also. That's about more than one person can take. (Laughter) I oppose your amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, I'm going to oppose Senator Chambers' motion. I think in part because we are going about this a little bit backwards. I think if you...if you think